

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4929

INFO AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

UNCLAS KINGSTON 2005

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EMIN

SUBJ: CARICOM BIG THREE AGREE ON ALUMINA SMELTER PROJECT

REF: KINGSTON 1819

1. FOLLOWING HIS RETURN FROM JUNE 7 MEETINGS WITH PMS WILLIAMS AND BURNHAM IN PORT OF SPAIN, PM MANLEY ANNOUNCED THAT THE THREE GOVTS HAD AGREED ON PLANS FOR A REGIONAL ALUMINA COMPLEX. SMELTERS ARE TO BE BUILT IN TRINIDAD AND GUYANA WITH A TOTAL CAPACITY OF 400,000 TONS. THE PROJECT WAS TO BE IMPLEMENTED IN TWO PHASES: PHASE 1 AIMED AT A SMELTER IN TRINIDAD WITH 200,000 TONS CAPACITY AND A PRODUCTION TARGET DATE OF JAN 1, 1979, AND PHASE 2 FOR A COMPARABLE SMELTER IN GUYANA TO START PRODUCTION BY 1981.

2. ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, THE PM'S AIRPORT STATEMENT INCLUDED THE FOLLOWING DETAILS OF THE PROJECT. "PHASE 1 A SMELTER OF APPROXIMATELY 200,000 TONS IN TRINIDAD BASED ON THE FOLLOWING PRINCIPLES:

(A) COLLECTIVE OWNERSHIP BY THE THREE GOVERNMENTS.

(B) THE FOLLOWING EQUITY RATIOS WILL APPLY: TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO 34, JAMAICA 33, GUYANA 33.

(C) EQUITABLE ARRANGEMENTS TO FACILITATE THE SHARING OF PRODU-

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CTION COSTS AND OUTPUT;

(D) SUBSEQUENT PARTICIPATION OF FURINAM OR ANY OTHER CARIBBEAN COUNTRY TO BE DECIDED ON BY THE THREE ORIGINAL PARTNERS;
(E) NO EQUITY PARTICIPATION BY ANY PERSON OR CORPORATE PERSON OUTSIDE OF THE REGION;
(F) EACH GOVERNMENT TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR MAKING ITS OWN ARRANGEMENTS FOR DISPOSAL OF ITS SHARE OF THE PRODUCT WITH THE PROVISIO THAT THIS WILL NOT EXCLUDE JOINT ARRANGEMENTS BETWEEN ANY OF THE TWO GOVERNMENTS OR BY ALL OF THE THREE GOVERNMENTS;
(G) TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO TO BE SOLEY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PROVISION OF POWER FACILITIES FOR THE SMELTER AND TO UNDERTAKE TO TAKE ALL REASONABLE STEPS TO SUPPLY UNINTERRUPTED POWER;
(H) GUYANA AND JAMAICA WILL GIVE APPROPRIATE LONG-TERM GUARENTEES FOR THE SUPPLY IN EQUAL PROPORTIONS, OF THE TOTAL ALUMINA REQUIREMENTS OF THE SMELTER;
(I) JAMAICA TO HAVE EXCLUSIVE RESPONSIBILITY FOR ITS SHARE OF ALUMINA SUPPLY TO THE SMELTER;
(J) GUYANA TO OFFER EQUITY PARTICIPATION TO THE OTHER TWO GOVERNMENTS IN FACILITIES FOR THE PRODUCTION OF ALUMINA FOR THE SMELTER."
"PHASE 2 SMELTER OF NO LESS THAN 200,000 TONS IN GUYANA BASED ON THE ABOVE PRINCIPLES VARIED AS:
(A) GUYANA TO BE SOLEY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PROVISION OF POWER FACILITES AND UNDERTAKE TO TAKE ALL REASONABLE STEPS TO SUPPLY UNINTERRUPTED POWER;
(B) THE FOLLOWING EQUITY RATIOS WILL APPLY: GUYANA 52, JAMAICA 24, TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO 24."

3. THE AIRPORT STATEMENT CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT A JOINT VENTURE GROUP TO COORDINATE WORK ON THE PROJECT WOULD MEET IN KINGSTON JUNE 23, AND THEIR REPORT WOULD SUBSEQUENTLY BE CONSIDERED BY THE CARICOM HEADS OF GOVT MEETING IN JULY.
GERARD

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